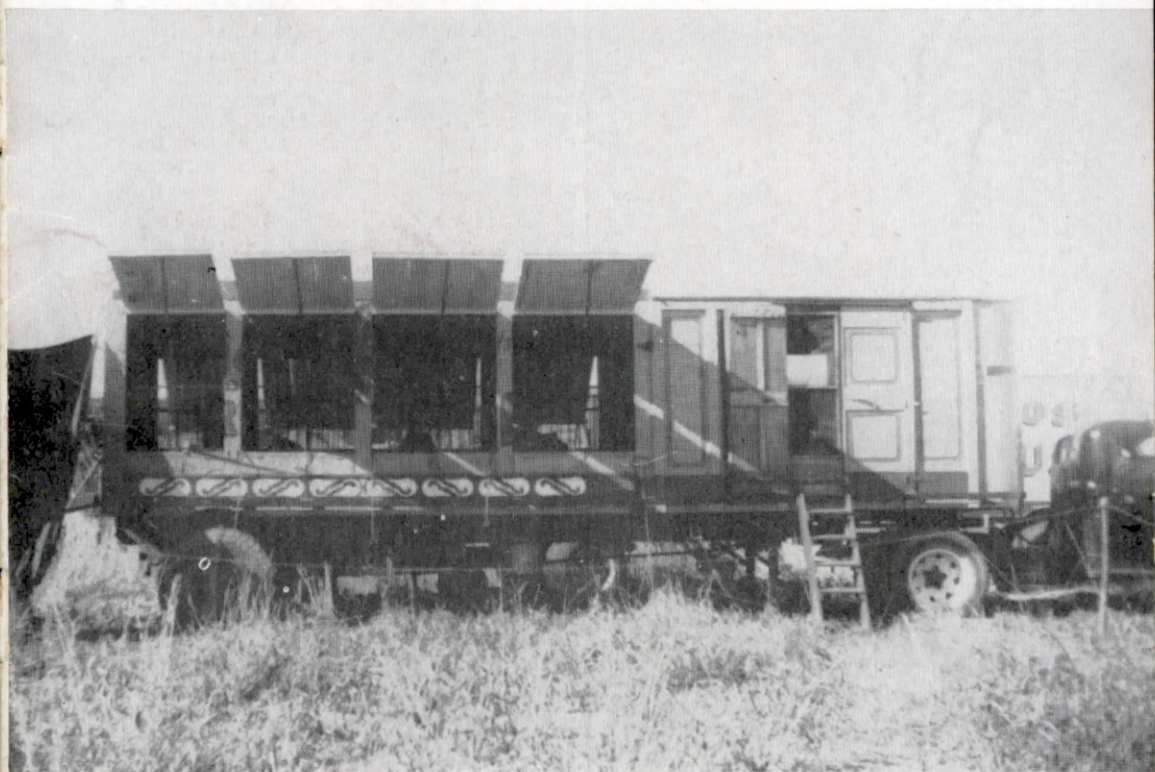


H O B B Y

Bandwagon

April 1949

15c



Cage truck used on the new Biller Bros. Circus to carry Prince Ki-Kor lion act. Robert Sams photo.

— The Circusiana Monthly —

HOBBY

Bandwagon

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

APRIL 1949

Vol. 4 No. 3

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lisher.

Circus Photos

FROM ORIGINAL NEGATIVES

Many from the Wm. Koford Collection

Partial List Now Ready

SHANK PHOTOS

Clarence R. Shank
Member of CHS and CFA

Camden, Ohio

HOBBY-BANDWAGON, publish-
ed monthly by Harry M. Simpson,
Camden, Ohio. Entered as sec-
ond-class matter at the post office
in Camden, Ohio, under the act of
March 3, 1879. Printed in U. S. A.

The Publisher Says



Bette Leonard, president of the
Circus Historical Society, has an-
nounced the appointment of a new
secretary to fill the unexpired term
of John Crowley, who resigned be-
cause of ill health.

Robert S. King of Richmond,
Ind., has been appointed secretary
of the Society for the remainder
of the term. Mr. King is well
qualified for the position, is a life-
long follower of the circus, and
will handle the job in a business-
like manner made necessary due to
the rapid growth of the Circus
Historical Society.

It is with regret that we lose
John Crowley as our secretary, but
he will remain a worker and boost-
er of the Society. Mr. Crowley
has submitted to several major
operations during the past year
and will return to the hospital this
May . . . we wish him a speedy
recovery and high praise for his
term of office.

It's hard to realize the vast cor-
respondence that a large national
organization creates. During the
past two years the correspondence
has greatly increased due to in-
crease of membership to over 400
members, added interest and en-
thusiasm among members as well
as non-members.

With the present set-up of offi-
cers, the Circus Historical Society
will continue to grow and should
soon reach a membership of 500
. . . this could be reached by a
membership drive, but we do not
need dues-paying members . . .
all members should be interested
in the circus, history of the circus
and collecting Circusiana. An or-
ganization of this type is bound to
grow and succeed.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Simpson

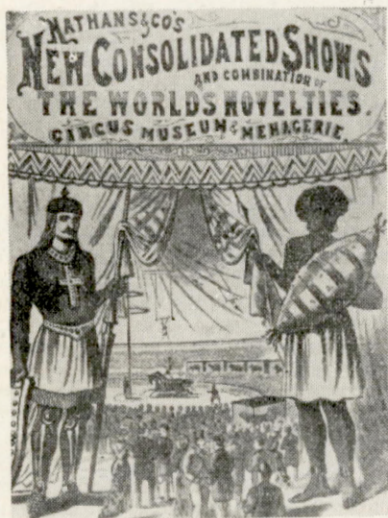
Nathan & Company's Tour of 1883 Beset With Misfortune

By John C. Kunzog

In the early part of June, 1883, there appeared in the Jamestown (N. Y.) paper the following advertisement:

The avalanche will be upon at Jamestown, Monday, June 25th.

Nathan & Co.'s Consolidated Shows united with Deckrill's French Circus. A far famed menagerie—a famous featured museum and an all-conquering double circus alliance in one big ring. Presenting an exceptional programme of refreshing originality portrayed by an assemblage of artists whose equal do not exist.



above "illustration from 1882 Courier"

In the front rank of whom stand Madame Elise Dockrill, the sensational bareback rider. With a nerve of steel and a hand of velvet, she guides her steeds so that they seem part of herself.

Fred Barclay and Philo Nathan, all America's greatest somersault and hurdle riders.

Neoskeleta, the bewitching Hin-

do princess, in thrilling evolutions of the aerial wire.

Captain Costentenus, the tattooed Greek. His skin a livid picture.

The DeBar Brothers—phenomenal boneless wonders.

Mademoiselle Lefevère of flying ring renown.

William T. Smead, unequalled pedalistic juggler.

Miss Minnie Perry dashing arenic sprite.

The Ashton Brothers is a succession of startling acrobatic feats.

Prof. Rhinehart's wonderful dog circus. A cute, cunning congress of canine comical specialists.

Five mirth-provoking clowns—headed by Antoine Larch, the grotesque mimic from sunny France, together with a legion of other famous gymnasts, riders, acrobats, trained animals, etc.

Gorgeous sun-lit free street parade daily at 10 a. m. An entrancing spectacle of fabulous worth.

A free exhibition of the most fear-inspiring character on the show grounds at 11 a. m. by the queen of aerial wonders, Mademoiselle Georgina. Don't miss it.

Two grand exhibitions daily. Doors open 1 and 7. Performance begins at 2 and 8. Prices as usual.

The ad was lavishly displayed and embellished with a cut of two hippotamus. Readers of the advertisement knew nothing of the misfortunes and tragedy that stalked the circus for the past few weeks, and only those endowed with psychic powers could foresee the disasters still to come.

Nathan & Company shows was wintering at Geneva, N. Y. Late in March, 1883, E. D. Colvin, one of the owners, went to the Pennsylvania town to prepare for the opening. A fortnight later, an announcement was made that he had sold his interest in the show to Nathans and had joined up with Adam Forepaugh.

Next Page, Please

Previous to this change of ownership, announcement had been made that T. H. Davis would be in charge of the advance. Immediately following the sale it was stated that Harry Cardova, who had previously handled the advance, would again be in charge of that department.

Among some of those engaged for the show, the following names were listed: Captain Costentenus, John Rixford, Mademoiselle Zaol and Warain Soto. The principal ring attractions were listed as Madame Dockrill, Dan Rice, Antoine Lerch and Fred Barclay.

The show was to open at its winter home, (Geneva, N. Y.) and the date was set as April 20. Shortly afterwards the date was changed to April 25 and the show then swung into New York state, showing at Ithaca on the 26th, Watkins, 27; Elmira, 28; Waverly, 30, and at Binghamton on May 1.

The weather proved favorable and the showed enjoyed good attendance, yet the first week was not to be a criterion for the misfortunes in store for the show, for the Goddess Jinx was hovering on the show grounds. The first incident occurred at Albany, May 6, when one of the elephants sickened and died.

The following day at Troy, the showed enjoyed big business, but as the circus was being loaded at Green Island, opposite Troy, Fanny Cosley, who was exhibited as the Zulu Giantress, took umbrage at an insult offered by a New York Central railroad engineer, promptly knocking him down with a blow

from her first.

At the same stand hoodlums took advantage of the activities at loading time, broke into one of the circus wagons and stole seven large glass globes with glass ships inside; a gross of china dolls in glass tubes; a 100-pound sack of pea-



above "illustration from 1882 Courier"

nuts, a suit of clothes and other wearing apparel. Six boys were arrested and most of the goods recovered.

At Cohoes on May 8th, Madame Dockrill fell from foremost horse in her 4-horse act. The crowd was aghast, and some shrieked at what seemed to be inevitable tragedy, yet the horses miraculously leaped over Madame Dockrill and she escaped injury.

At Rochester, May 29-30, severe rainstorms converted the lot into a sea of mud. Only two performances were given during the two-day stand to small audiences.

The following day the show was

CIRCUS TENTS in O and HO Gauges

A COMPLETE 3 ring circus tent with blue canvas, 4 mail tent poles, 14 middle poles, 32 side poles, 4 American Flags. A beautiful main entrance made from striped canvas—this extra-ordinary circus tent has all the seams machine sewn. Tent ropes are securely fastened to canvas. This CIRCUS tent is NOT A KIT but completely finished job. Takes only a few minutes to set up, and you have a beautiful addition to your model.

O gauge circus tent 40x16x8½ price only	\$8.75
HO gauge circus tent 23x10x6 price only	\$6.75
Dressing Tent (Blue top, white sides) 23"x10"	\$5.50
Horse Tent (White) 11"x24"	\$3.40
Concession Tents (red white & blue) 4"x6", set of 3 tents	\$4.80
Cook Tent (top blue, white sides) 12"x24"	\$5.20

OTHER SIZE CIRCUS TENTS "MADE TO ORDER"

Bussa Model Railroads, Box 66 Friendship 1, Ohio

at Brockport, but condition of the lot and incessant rain made it impossible to set up.

On June 5th, at Suspension Bridge, N. Y., the show was struck by a terrific rain-squall, which leveled the tents and badly slashed the canvas. Many persons were injured in the blowdown and its attendant excitement, but none fatally.

On June 6 and 7, the show was at Buffalo, but the afternoon performance of the 6th was omitted as it was impossible to mend the tents in time.

On June 8, at Batavia, Dan Rice and his daughter left the show and returned to their home in Girard, Pa.

At Salamanca, N. Y., June 22, Fanny Conley, the Zulu Giantress, was found dead in bed. Jamestown paper of June 25, 1883, had this to say: "Death of Fat Woman. Fanny Cosley, the fat woman with Nathan & Co.'s Circus, was found dead in her bunk of the company's sleeping car at Salamanca last week. Coroner Wilcox held an inquest and from the evidence it appears she had turned over on her face and suffocated, being unable to turn herself on account of her great weight. She was a Negro woman, aged 34 years. Actual weight 407 pounds. Her husband came from her home in Mansfield, Ohio, and the burial was held at Salamanca." (In conjunction with this it might be stated that the advertised weight of the woman was 597 pounds).

On July 24th, at Portsmouth, Va., while the evening performance was in progress and between four and five thousand people in attendance, a heavy storm arose, wind getting under the tent and causing some poles to fall. An attempt was made to continue the performance. The animals seemed to sense impending danger and one horse refused to stay in the ring despite the persuasion of the bareback rider. Madame Elisa Dockrill, while performing her flying hurdle act, sprained the cords of her knee, incapacitating her for several weeks.

The wind increased in violence, caught the storm-battered canvas at the center pole and ripped it to the sidewall, bringing down with it more poles. A stampede for exits was started by some, when

the shout of "fire" added to the confusion. The flapping canvas had become ignited from ring lamps. Horror-stricken, people started rushing in all directions to escape flames which were spreading rapidly through the oil-impregnated canvas, and falling sparks set fire to straw near the rings.

Hundreds of persons rushed through one side of the tent and in the darkness failed to see the five-foot ditch overgrown with briars. Men, women and children plunged headlong into this ravine, piling on top of each other. Many sustained broken legs or arms, bruises and scratches, but luckily no one was killed outright.

Madame Dockrill left for her home in Fordham, N. Y., to recuperate.

On September 13, at Garrett, Kansas, the show was visited by a sheriff, who attached the proper-

Next Page, Please

NEW BILLER BROS.
CIRCUS PHOTOS
TWENTY 3½x5 VIEWS ONLY \$3
Built Like A Railroad Circus
Most Unusual Motorized
Circus Ever.

Views of the new custom built wagons, open cages in menagerie, tents, animals, light plants and wagon, side show banners and bally, ticket wagon, baby bulls, mechanical department, \$11,700.00 cook house wagon, lithographs, new scoop lighting system on mid-way, horses, pole, canvas, stringer wagons marquee and many others.

All pictures taken this spring while equipment was fresh. Everything artistically painted.

FREE! A big sheet describing the photos in detail and complete information on this brand new circus. Don't miss it!

Money Back If Not Pleased.
Order Today! Supply Limited.
Just write "Biller Bros. Photos" on a scrap of paper and slip in envelope with your check, money order or three well wrapped one dollar bills. Your set will go out by return mail. Hurry! Time is short!

ROBERT SAMS
2745 Bush Boulevard, Ensley
Birmingham 8, Alabama

ty for Dan Rice, who alleged \$1,600 due for salary.

Perchance some of our readers can tell the outcome of this attachment. According to information, this was the last year Dan Rice trouped with a circus.

And speaking of Dan Rice, can any Bandwagon reader give me any information regarding Dan Rice, the Irish clown, who played in New York City in 1823? If they can I may be able to give an interesting highlight on circus history.

Did this glorious circus sing its swan song during the 1883 tour? Some of the principals mentioned in our story find mention in the New York Clipper of 1884 as follows:

"Mme. Elisa Dockrill, equestrienne, and R. H. Dockrill, equestrian director, can be engaged for next season. Mr. Dockrill, in a special card, emphatically denies the malicious report that his wife would be unable to ride her horseback acts again."—Clipper, January 12, 1884.

And in the same issue of the Clipper appeared a one-inch double column ad, reading: "Madame Elisa Dockrill is now at liberty to accept an engagement for the coming season. Also R. H. Dockrill to act as equestrian director. Address: R. H. Dockrill, Valentine Avenue, Fordham, New York City."

In another column, appeared: "Mme. Dockrill is in excellent health, and practicing her horseback acts daily, all malicious reports to the contrary notwithstanding."

In the news columns of the Clipper of the same date, was found this item: "Captain Costentenus, the tattooed Greek, is still in this city, suffering from cataract of the right eye."

In the Clipper dated February 16, 1884, was found this small ad: "Philo Nathan can be engaged for Hurdle and Four Horses. Have a horse for sale, pad or bareback. Address: New Durham, New Jersey."

Did that fickle jade, Misfortune, trail the Nathans Circus to doom during its 1883 tour, or are the above quotations merely a coincidence?

In a courier issued by Nathans & Co.'s New Consolidated Shows

in 1882 (the season prior to the eventful tour detailed), we quote:

"It is composed of six distinct and separate organizations, all of which have won reputation and popularity on their real merits, and either one of which, only a short time ago, would have been considered a real show of itself. . . . Thus united the establishment was naturally named Nathans & Co.'s New Consolidated Shows, comprising:

1st—Nathan's Cosmopolitan Circus.

2nd—Colvin's Great Menagerie.

3rd—Jukes' Automatic Museum.

4th—Fryer's Pony Circus.

5th—Miaco's Humpty - Dumpty Troupe.

6th—Fryer's Canine Actors and Dog Circus.

We quote, in part, the description given for each of these shows:

Colvin's Menagerie will be found extensive and exhaustive, containing not only beautiful and healthy specimens of the commonest varieties of animals, such as Lions, Tigers, Elephants, Camels, etc., but many of the rarer kinds, among them several which have never before been exhibited in the United States.

Jukes' Automatic Museum is, without doubt, the most curious and interesting collection of Mechanical Wonders.

Fryer's Pony Circus forms a department which, while it is especially dedicated to the young folks, cannot fail of pleasing all.

Miaco's Humpty-Dumpty Troupe is composed of a selected company of Pantomimists, Clowns, Pantaloons, Columblines, and the various characters which are more or less accessory to poor "Humpty-Dumpty's" trials, triumphs, escapades and comical adventures.

Prof. Fryer's Canine Comedians and Dog Circus will be found the most pleasing and wonderful animal performance in the entire annals of the show business.

I'll Be Seeing You In Baraboo in 1949.

PHOTOS—BARNUM & BAILEY, In Europe, list on request. Jake Posey, 549 North Maine St., Baldwin Park, Calif. 347

America's Number One Girl Circus Fan
Following Ringling Brothers-Barnum and
Bailey's "League of Nations on Tour"
from Coast to Coast, tells her story of the
Big Show in her New Book

WE FELL IN LOVE WITH THE CIRCUS

By Claire Hallard Fawcett

A unique book, combining a vivid running narrative of fascinating experiences on the road. Pen sketches from life and camera recordings of the Sawdust World and Its People as they really are at work and play. No other volume like it ever has been brought together.

Claire Fawcett has been devoted to the circus since childhood. She knows the Big One as no other "Outsider" does; goes each season where it goes and lives as it lives.

The little people and the big people, the featured performers and the folk "out back" who keep the show moving by hard physical labor and generally are forgotten so long as everything runs smoothly—Claire is friends with them all. She makes them real in her story.

With 121 Original
Drawings by the
author, and 130 half-
tone engravings of
photographs by Arth-
ur F. and James Wal-
do Fawcett.

200 pages—7x10—bound in circus red, stamped in silver.
Edition limited to 5,000—Copies will be autographed by Claire
upon request. Price \$5.00 Postpaid.

CONTENTS:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * The Beginning of Our Romance | * These Also Serve |
| * Magic Reality on Tour | * Winter Quarters at Sara- |
| * Girls and Girls and Girls | sota |
| * All About Clowns | * Sideshow People Even as |
| * Children with the Big One | You and I |
| * Stars of the Circus Sky | * Jeeping from Coast to |
| * Circus Animals Review- | Coast in Pursuit of our |
| ed | Lore |
| | * Advice for the Circus |
| | Lorn |

Order from **H. L. LINDQUIST PUB.**

4 West 46th Street

New York 19

The Bandwagon

News and Activities of the
CIRCUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Founded In 1939

By Don Smith

Harry M. Simpson Editor

OFFICERS

Bette Leonard President
Maurice Alaïre Vice-Pres.
Walter Pietschmann Treas.
Robert C. King Secretary
William Green ... Election Comm.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Don Smith
Walter Tyson
Arthur Stensvard
John VanMatre

ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The following members have moved during past three months and left no forwarding address:

Mrs. Evalyn Dech.
Francis A. Yohe.
Col. Tim McCoy.
Leroy Sweetland.
Stephen Hlavenda.
Harry A. Arnold.
John Lynch.
Robert C. Boyer.
Arthur P. Gunther.
Paul W. Morgan.

CHS PHOTOS

The two circus photos mailed by the Circus Historical Society to their members this month, are as follows: The first photograph shows Polly Morrissey, wife of Frank Morrissey, taken on the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus in 1946 negative was donated by Ken Amadon of Manchester, N. H. The second photograph shows thee Nellie Dutton riding troupe on the James M. Cole Circus in 1947 negative was loaned by Dick Hemphill of Hagerstown, Md.

Walter L. Main and Murray L. Guy were among the CHS members who attended the convention of the Circus Fans of American at Hagerstown, Md., last month and caught the John Pawling Great London Circus.

Bette and Fred Leonard caught the Stevens Bros. Circus at Cheney, Kansas, on April 27th.

We regret to report that Henry L. Symons is seriously ill at the General Hospital at Cabondale, Pa. He is in room 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert King, Clarence Shank, Don Howland, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Conover, Ed Hillhouse and Harry M. Simpson caught the Mills Bros. Circus opening at Circleville, Ohio, on April 16th. The day was cold but all enjoyed the outstanding program presented by Jack and Jake Mills.

THANKS

The publisher wishes to thank the following for items received: Ray Van Cleef, Dr Harrison Powers, H. A. Sharkey, E. B. McCord, John L. Sullivan, Burns M. Kattenberg, Wm. W. Moore, George Churchill, Bette Leonard, Chas. E. Davis, W. H. Woodcock, Dr. C. S. Karland Frischkorn, G. A. Greasby, Earl L. Strouse, Clarence Shank, Robert C. King, Joseph Fleming, Clyde Patterson, Richard Conover, Rev. Doc Waddell, Jack Mills, W. L. Montague, Harry Chipman, Raymond Moreau, Gus Talliaferro, Ed Hillhouse, J. A. Havirland.

CIRCUS PHOTOS

Postcard size, clear and sharp, in sets ONLY. Returnable if not satisfied. Ringling Bros., Barnum & Bailey, ranging from 1930 to 1943.

Sparks Circus—8 sets 1927, 28 & 30; Downie Bros., Hagenbeck-Wallace, Robbin Bros., Cole Bros., Dailey Bros., Bailey Bros., Kelly-Miller, Col. Tim McCoy Wild West, Al G. Barnes, "Barnes-Sells-Floto & RB&BB" and Teatty-Russell

I do not exchange sets or sell individual pictures.

EDDIE JACKSON

Box 477, Macon, Ga.

Harry Chipman, owner of the "Circus Inn" at Yakima, Wash., sends a herald advertising the Golden Anniversary and Farewell appearance of Captain Louis Roth, famed wild animal trainer of the big top for many years. The performance was held on May 5th and introduced the new Louis Roth Top of CFA.

Edwin L. Hillhouse crashed the front page of the Chillicothe (Ohio) Gazette on Jan. 29th, with a picture of Hillhouse that almost covered the entire front page. Ed carves horses and circus animals and has received a lot of publicity in the Ohio newspapers on his fine work.

Three members of the Circus Historical Society have been named directors of the Circus Fans of America. They are Charles B. Kistler, Robert C. King and Dr. H. H. Conley. Dr. Conley is their retiring president.

Walter L. Main, dean of circus owners, has returned home after a trip through the south and Cuba.

The Bonnaffons will exhibit the late William Koford's miniature circus on the Steel Pier at Atlantic City, N. J., this summer. This miniature circus was recently purchased from C. Spencer Chambers.

G. Nissivoccia of Newark, N. J., has added to his large circus and physical culture library the first new circus book, "De Circo Romano" published in 1593. This book is in the original binding and in fine condition.

Circus Articles

February '49

NEWARK (N. J.) NEWS, 2-6-49—"Hey Rube" by Roland E. Lindbloom, 2-13-49 second installment PIONEER, 2-26-49—"Jumbo Journal" by R. Leon (fiction).

March '49

LOUISVILLE (KY.) COURIER-JOURNAL, 3-6 Story and pictures of "America" calliope in

Washington, D. C. MILWAUKEE (WISC.) JOURNAL, 3-23—"Funniest Clown in History Gave Name to Profession" by Walter Monfried, story and illus. on Grimaldi HOBBIES—"The Circus and Clowns" by A. Morton Smith.

April '49

POLICE GAZETTE—Four pictures of the Big One PHOTOGRAPHY—"Camera Under the Big Top" by John Strang, 10 illus., color cover of Harry Dann HOBBIES—"Circus and Collectors" by A. Morton Smith ESQUIRE—"Bill it Like a Circus" by Lee Rogrow, four fine color reproductions of old time lithos MUSCLE POWER—"My Friend Arthur Saxon", illus. BLUE BOOK—"The Man Who Didn't Like Dogs" by Robert Barbour Johnson (fiction) THE RAILWAY CONDUCTOR—"Sawdust Special," many illus. of the "big one" THIS WEEK, 4-3—"Tiger, Tiger," story of Rudolph Matthies with illus. and color cover LIFE, 4-4—"Circus Gets Ready," 9 illus. COLLIER, 4-9, color cover of Bill Ballentine BILLBOARD, 4-16—"Rags to Riches in Gainesville" by A. Morton Smith, same issue—"From Cage Boy to Circus Owner—It's the Story of Clyde Beatty" by Sam Abbott COLUMBUS (OHIO) CITIZEN, 4-17—"New Season and a New Life Beginning Under the Big Top," story and illus. of Mills Bros; Circus same issue—Story and illus. on Walter Gossenz, former circus and minstrel star

CHS Convention at Baraboo, Wisc., in 1949.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Management, etc., of the Hobby-Bandwagon, as required by an act of Congress, August 24, 1912; Hobby-Bandwagon, published monthly at Camden, Ohio.

Owner, publisher, editor and manager, Harry M. Simpson, Camden, Ohio.

Mortgagee: None.

HARRY M. SIMPSON,

Publisher

Subscribed and sworn before me this 8th day of April, 1949.

LOUISE SIMPSON

Notary Public



D. W. Denton, Secy., Lancaster, Ohio

MY FIRST MINSTREL

By John W. Vogel

There has been considerably written lately about old-time minstrel shows, but there is one of the old-time shows that has not been mentioned. That is the first one I was ever connected with. The title of the show was Abrams & Vogel's Big Jubilee Minstrels.

This show was organized in September, 1877, at Chillicothe, O., my home town. I rehearsed the show in a hall over a colored fire engine house. We rehearsed about two weeks and finally concluded the show was ready to produce.

The company was composed of white and colored talent. As there was not enough white talent in the neighborhood to make up the show I was compelled to use some colored talent. Therefore, I believe I can take credit for being the first manager to introduce a double show composed of white and colored performers.

The principal endmen were W. S. Cleveland and George Fisher. The inside endmen were Bill P. Fay, James Fay, Roe Wood and Charles Owsley. The latter two were colored boys and very fine dancers. The singers were Billy Connor, Al Wilson, Billy Snyder and Ott Abrams. John W. Vogel occupied the interlocutor's chair. The orchestra was composed of one musician, a violin player, Jim Branson, also colored.

The performance consisted of the usual first-part circle, and the first part lasted about two hours.

The olio or second part was made up of Negro acts, consisting of "Scenes in a Lunatic Asylum," "The Haunted Hotel," "Razor Jim," "Hawkshaw the Detective," etc. Roe Wood and Charles Owsley did a dancing specialty; W. S. Cleveland did a monolog, and the Honey Creek Quartet, composed of

Vogel, Snyder, Connor and Wilson, rendered some of the old plantation selections and were the outstanding hit of the show.

The scenery consisted of two bed sheets strung on a wire from one side of the hall to the other, and it was "a grand scenic production." We gave a concert in front of the theater before the performance. Jim Branson played the violin and the quartet sang. As we had advertised a grand free concert in front of the hall at 7:30 p. m., there was a large gathering present to hear the concert. The entire company appeared in black-face. At that time prepared cork was an unknown thing, so the boys picked up pop-bottle corks from the rear of the saloons and burned them and used them to black up with.

As conditions in Chillicothe at that time were not very good, I decided to make the prices in keeping with the times, so I made the prices for children 5 cents and for adults 10 cents. As Kresge and Woolworth were unknown at that time, I also take credit for introducing the 5-and-ten.

I am pleased to say we played to S. R. O. and the performance was pronounced by all present to be the best that had ever been given in the hall. I guess that was the only one ever given in the hall.

After I saw the number of people in the hall I concluded to give the boys a big blowout after the show. When the performance was over and the audience had dispersed I, being eager to know how much money we had played to, found the man that sold the tickets and inquired of him how much money he had taken in. To my great surprise he said we played to \$1.15 gross. I was dumfounded and asked how all the people got in. He said they told him they were the members and families of the volunteer fire department and he passed them in free. So there was no banquet.

Strange to say, every boy that took part in that show made his mark in the show business. W. S. (Billy) Cleveland owned three of the biggest minstrel shows on the road, two white and one colored. W. P. Fay was the general agent of Weber & Field's Variety Show, when they were in their prime. Later, Fay was secretary and treas-

urer and one of the stockholders of the Brooklyn Billposting Company. Billy Connor played the part of Spike Hennessey in Litt & Davis' "Stowaway." James Fay was on the advertising staff of all the big circuses. George Fisher was general agent of Barlow & Wilson's Minstrels. Billy Snyder played the part of Still Bill with J. C. Lewis' "Si Plunkard" Company; also played flute and piccolo in the band and orchestra. Al Wilson was manager of Huber's Museum on 14th street, New York City. Roe Wood went to Australia with Hicks & Sawyers Colored Minstrels. Charles Owsley went to Europe and was one of the dancing sensations in the big music halls. Ott Abrams owned a barber shop in Columbus, O.

Abrams & Vogel's Big Jubilee Minstrels opened and closed on the same night. John W. Vogel is the only living member of this company.

—o—

SECOND OPENING

Claire Fawcett has recently completed a book entitled "We Fell In Love with the Circus." The end product of Miss Fawcett's sincere endeavor is an entertaining piece of writing and photography that each and every circus fan will enjoy reading and admiring for the close-ups that it gives him of many of the artists that he has read about, known and seen work.

When it comes to clowns and clowning and their respective make-ups there are some excellent close-ups which will satisfy your mind as to some of your opinions regarding the work of some of those gentlemen that live in the alley. Some several shots of Lou Jacobs will expain his emphasized success because he is the true artist as so deftly described by those photos of him posing in pantomime par excellent.

Jimmy Armstrong, Paul Jung, Ernie Burch and Clayton Chase are there also to demonstrate to the reader just why clown white is still one of Stein's big items.

Miss Fawcett and her family, consisting of two additional photo taking male members, were fascinated by the circus and this story of hers regarding the mannerism that it has affected them is one for every circus fan to take a special note of.

This explanation of that vaccination that they revealed that kept that yen for circus fascination in their blood, so to speak, is also explained by the capacity houses that the show gets to play to. The press ahead have got an awful lot to do with the amount of vaccine that the folks receive but the thing itself, that they've been made anxious to see is real too and can be proven by the fact that the show offens plays over the same territory each season and the capacity house play a return engagement.

Sometime, however, playing over virgin territory will be responsible for a show getting consistent good houses. Back in the 80's when Theodore Long (that everybody called Thee, not Ted) was working ahead of the Charlie Bartine Show they got into some new territory and the sellouts were regular. Ed Long, Thee's brother, was the ringmaster on the show then and when the old man would see them sitting on the straw at each and every performance, he'd say to Ed, "Listen, Thee's a damned good agent."

Circus fans will enjoy Miss Fawcett's eager delight in transferring to paper the sensation she received when the bug bit her because it may partially explain the mannerism in which the bug acts when it bites folks. They should have a copy of this work of Claire Hallard Fawcett's too, in their respective libraries because biting them personally might just be next on the bugs program, who knows.—Mac

—o—

A new C. H. S. roster is in the making and to insure your name being listed in the roster, check your address on the Bandwagon and check your membership cards in regards to your dues. Mr. King's address is 1117 Main street, Richmond, Ind.

—o—

CHS Convention at Baraboo, Wisc., in 1949.

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